



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42 - MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER • 2023



THANK YOU!

To all of our host families - thank you for a great start to the 2023-2024 school year! We appreciate all that you do to make sure our international students feel welcome and at home in our country. 🇨🇦

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

Oct. 20 - Non-Instructional Day

(No Classes)

- Victoria 1-Day Tour

(Optional Field Trip)

Oct. 31 - Halloween

Nov. 10 - Non-Instructional Day

(No Classes)

Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day

Nov. 13 - Remembrance Day Stat

(No Classes)

Nov. 18 - Canucks Hockey Game

(Optional Field Trip)

Dec. 20 & 22 - Whistler 1-Day Ski Tour

(Optional Field Trip)

Dec. 23 - Jan. 7 - Winter Break

(Schools Closed)



PHOTO CONTEST

Thank you to all students and host families who participated in our photo contest hosted at the start of the school year. All of the entries were wonderful! Contest winners have been notified by email and announced via our Instagram: [maple_ridge_international](https://www.instagram.com/maple_ridge_international).

We love to see the moments and memories made with your students; if you have photos to share please do! You can send them by email to your homestay coordinator or to ie_reception@sd42.ca.



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!





REPORT CARDS

Secondary schools are back to a linear system this school year. This means students are taking 8 courses through the year rather than 4 per semester.

International students will be receiving a progress form at school the week of October 23rd. Students will take this form to their classroom teachers for feedback and our office will collect these back from the school Liaison the following week for review. These reports will help us identify any areas of concern or opportunity so we can set a plan for improvement with students as needed before official term reports are issued. Term 1 progress reports will be issued December 7th or 14th depending on the school. These reports will be forwarded to agents and the students' natural parents.

Host parents do not attend students conferences, as the mid-term reports are collected in lieu. It is recommended that host parents review the term report in December to help monitor attendance and work habits. We want our students to have the best education experience possible, so if there is room for improvement, it is helpful if you are aware. If you suspect your student is struggling at school or is not attending regularly, please get in touch with your homestay coordinator.

PARENT PORTAL

Host parents are connected to the parent portal automatically to stay informed about upcoming events. For school field trips (different than the optional trips offered to international students) you will need to confirm your student would like to attend via the portal. This will trigger a notification to our department to authorize the trip as the legal custodian. Your email in the portal must match what we have on file. If your email address has changed, please contact your homestay coordinator with an update. To access your account, click [here](#).

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Students are expected to attend all classes. It is important to inform the school if a student will be absent or late. Students must speak with their liaison and teachers to complete all work missed while they were away.

If students are unavoidably late or absent, the following procedures apply:

- Students who arrive to school late are required to sign in at the office.
- Students who leave the school during the school day must sign out at the office. Confirmation (note or phone call) from a host parent granting permission is required.
- If illness causes a student to miss school, the host parent should notify the school (email/portal/phone call) before 8:30am. Our office can not log absences, only the school which the student attends.
- Students who participate in extra-curricular events should notify the school before the event of their absence.

Excessive unexcused absences and/or late arrivals will result in school-based intervention. If absences persist, students may be placed on an International Education Performance Contract.

TRAVEL

There are many layers to the travel permission process for students in our custodial care. Our program Travel policies can be found [here](#). Please contact your homestay coordinator if you have any questions.



If your family plans to travel with an overnight stay, whether it is local or not, please be in touch with your homestay coordinator as soon as possible. If your student(s) will not be travelling with you, alternate arrangements will have to be made with the help of your homestay coordinator. Students are not permitted to stay overnight anywhere without the supervision of an approved adult over the age of 25.

Students returning home due to their program ending in December or January must promptly send their return flight information to intedtravel@sd42.ca. Transportation to/from the airport should be arranged well ahead during this busy time of year.



DC ADVENTURE TOURS

We have sold out almost all field trips for the first half of the school year! There is one trip left with spots available:

December 28 - Holiday Lights Tour & Capilano Suspension Bridge

Interested students can book online [here](#). We will open the second semester field trip bookings in February 2024 to give new students joining our program in the New Year a chance to book.

FALL ACTIVITIES

Below are links to fun family activities & events happening in our community this season. You may wish to participate with your student and family, or perhaps suggest some of these options to your student if they need ideas!

- [Celebrate the Night - Maple Ridge](#)
- [Local bike routes by HUB Committee](#)
- [Metro Vancouver activities under \\$25](#)
- [Corn Mazes](#)
- [Laity Pumpkin Patch - a local classic!](#)
- [Pitt Meadows Parks, Recreation & Culture - lessons, programs, drop-ins and activities](#)
- [Maple Ridge Parks, Recreation, & Culture - lessons, programs, drop-ins and activities](#)
- [Ridge Meadows Flames Junior A Ice Hockey Games](#)
- [Willow View Farms apple picking, barn animals & more! \(Abbotsford\)](#)
- [Explore Fort Langley](#)
- [Krause Berry Farms - U-pick pumpkins & berries, hot waffle bar, market & more!](#)

Other fall activities could include pumpkin carving, cooking/baking together such as soups and pasta sauce to freeze or pies, handing out Halloween treats, going to see a movie or a movie marathon at home. Don't forget to take photos and send them to us at ie_reception@sd42.ca to be featured on our social media pages!



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



CONTACTING YOUR HSC

Homestay Coordinators work 5 days a week, including 1 weekend day, so there is a coordinator in the office daily. Please review the coordinator contact information on this page for your HSC's work days. Coordinators also work from their assigned schools 1-2 days a week to meet with students during the school year. The best way to contact your HSC is via email for non-emergencies and to schedule a phone conversation as needed.

You may also phone our office and we will connect you with your Coordinator or take a message when they are not immediately available. HSC cellphone numbers are also provided for you should you need to reach them while they are at schools, or during their weekend shift.

Please phone our Emergency 24/7 line for any after hours urgencies: 604-345-9802. This number should be saved in your phone so you can easily contact us in emergency cases. You should call this number for any medical emergencies and/or significant concerns about student well-being. This number is different than that of our office and is reachable 24/7!

HOST FAMILY REFERRALS

Our homestay family referral program is still in effect! If you have friends, relatives, neighbours, or coworkers living within our district who would make a good host family, please refer them to us through your homestay coordinator. We will be offering more short-term programs in the 2023-2024 school year. These are a great opportunity for anyone curious about hosting international students to begin on a smaller scale, or for anyone who would like to host but has limited availability. Once we successfully onboard the referred family and place a student, you will receive a \$100 PC gift certificate as a thank you!



HOMESTAY COORDINATORS

YUKI FREAD

SUN-THURS 604-353-8823
yuki_fread@sd42.ca
PMSS, THSS

SACHIKO TAKAHASHI

TUES-SAT 604-880-6338
sachiko_takahashi@sd42.ca
WSS, FVE, HA, MRE

MEGUMI FORBES-KING

TUES-SAT 604-516-9531
megumi_forbes-king@sd42.ca
GSS, SRT, AL, ARE, BME

CECILIA JEONG

SUN-THURS 604-349-9951
cecilia_jeong@sd42.ca
MRSS, ATE, DJE, EME, HPE

YURI KIMURA

CASUAL 778-846-6231
yuri_kimura@sd42.ca

STUDENT SAFETY

As the weather turns and it becomes dark earlier, we would appreciate your help in reminding students of pedestrian safety.

Please encourage the use of reflective gear/gadgets -- flashlights on cellphones can be used if they do not have anything reflective on-hand, and wearing headphones while walking should be avoided. Students should pre-plan their routes and be aware of their surroundings. Please offer rides to your students if you are able when conditions are less safe.



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HEALTH RESOURCES

Cold and flu season is back! We ask that you remind students of the importance of proper hand hygiene and sneeze/cough etiquette as needed. Students should not attend school if they are feeling unwell or have symptoms of illness. Absences must be reported to the school by the host parent.

International students who have an MSP number (BC services card) are eligible to receive a flu shot at any pharmacy should they choose to do so. If they do not have an MSP number yet they can still receive the flu shot at a walk-in clinic, though it is recommended to phone ahead. Students who are here for 6 months or more can receive the Grade 6 and 9 immunizations administered by public health nurses at school if they choose to. Prior vaccination records will need to be sent to Fraser Health to confirm they are eligible. Questions regarding immunizations can be directed to your homestay coordinator.


Links to Fraser Health Resources:


[Healthy Back-to-School Guide](#)

[School Health: Find answers to FAQs](#)

[Communicable Disease & Covid-19 guidance & info for K-12 \(available in multiple languages\)](#)

HEALTHY EATING

Providing 3 healthy meals a day for your student is one of the most important responsibilities of a host family. Fueling our bodies with the right food will help keep them healthy and strong, both physically and mentally! Students should eat breakfast at home before school, or bring a travel-friendly breakfast to school to eat before class. We discourage students from taking advantage of the breakfast incentive programs as this is reserved for vulnerable families who do not have funding allocated for meals. Please contact your homestay coordinator with any questions regarding meals. 

We suggest asking your student what their favourite healthy snacks are, or taking them grocery shopping with you to find some items you can all enjoy. 

Click [here](#) for valuable information on healthy eating and tips on family nutrition from the Government of Canada!



MEDICAL INSURANCE

International students are insured with StudyInsured, which allows us to provide better service and additional support to students and host families when dealing with medical issues. More information and helpful print-outs for Study Insured can be found online [here](#).

StudyInsured's online Virtual Health service connects students with doctors via the internet and includes support in multiple languages. 24 hour multilingual support is available through their INTREPID24/7 service. For any medical needs that may arise, your first call should always be to their toll-free 24/7 medical help line: **1-866-883-9787**

Full year students are registered for MSP after they have been in Canada for 3 months. An MSP number and BC Services Card will be provided to the student. It is very important that the student and/or host family do **NOT** change the mailing address for MSP. This could happen when taking the student to the hospital or doctor and they asked to confirm the address. Changing the address will cause invoices to be delivered to your address. To avoid this do not change the address. Our office address should remain on file: 20675 Thorne Avenue, V2X 9A6.

If you have questions regarding insurance coverage, please reach out to your homestay coordinator or contact our office for assistance.



**MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS**
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM